

Christian Orthodox Church was established, is the spiritual center for more than 300,000,000 Orthodox Christians worldwide, including approximately 5,000,000 Orthodox Christians in the United States and 150,000 Orthodox Christians in the commonwealth; and

Whereas, the closure of the Theological School of Halki has adversely impacted the ecumenical patriarchate's ability to educate its clergy and, ultimately, to select its next ecumenical patriarch; and

Whereas, the closure has come to symbolize repression of religious freedom for all faiths in Turkey; and

Whereas, freedom of religion has long been recognized as a right which has contributed significantly to the establishment and growth of the citizens of the commonwealth and is central to the ideals of all people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Massachusetts Senate hereby memorializes the President of the United States, the Congress of the United States and the United States Department of State to take all actions necessary to encourage the Government of Turkey to adopt and uphold international standards for the protection of human rights, to reopen the Theological School of Halki in order to continue religious training, to eliminate all forms of discrimination in accordance with the ideals associated with the European Union, its member states and all liberal democracies, particularly those based on race and religion, and to respect the human rights and property of the ecumenical patriarchate by safeguarding religious freedom for all; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the clerk of the Senate to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State of the United States and the Presiding Officer of each branch of Congress and to the members thereof from the commonwealth.

POM-355. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to take such actions as are necessary to create a national catastrophe fund; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 30

Whereas, the hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005 were startling reminders of both the human and economic devastation that hurricanes, flooding, and other natural disasters can cause; and

Whereas, creation of a federal catastrophe fund is a comprehensive, integrated approach to help better prepare and protect the nation from natural catastrophes, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, snowstorms, and earthquakes; and

Whereas, the current system of responses to catastrophes leaves many people and businesses at risk of being unable to replace what they lost, wastes tax dollars, raises insurance premiums, and leads to shortages of insurance needed to sustain our economy; and

Whereas, creation of a federal catastrophe fund would help stabilize insurance markets following a catastrophe and help steady insurance costs for consumers while making it possible for private insurance to be written in catastrophe-prone areas; and

Whereas, a portion of the premiums collected by insurance companies could be deposited into such a fund which could be administered by the United States Treasury and grow tax free; and

Whereas, a portion of the interest earnings of the fund could be dedicated to emergency responder efforts and public education and mitigation programs; and

Whereas, the federal catastrophe fund would operate as a "backstop" and could only be accessed when private insurers and state catastrophe funds have paid losses in excess of a defined threshold; and

Whereas, utilizing the capacity of the federal government would help smooth out fluctuations which consumers currently experience in insurance prices and availability because of exposure to large catastrophic losses and would provide better protection at a lower price; and

Whereas, when there is a gap between the insurance protection consumers buy and the damage caused by a major catastrophe, taxpayers across the country pay much of the difference, as congressional appropriations of billions of dollars for the after-the-fact disaster relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina demonstrated; and

Whereas, on November 8, 2007, the United States House of Representatives passed the Homeowners' Defense Act of 2007 (H.R. 3355) that would help ensure that individuals and communities destroyed by natural catastrophes have the resources necessary to repair, rebuild, and recover in the aftermath of massive hurricanes, earthquakes, or other natural events; and

Whereas, the Homeowners' Defense Act of 2007 was sponsored by Florida Representatives Ron Klein, Tim Mahoney, and Ginny Brown-Waite and nearly four dozen cosponsors from around the country including then Congressman Bobby Jindal, now governor of the state of Louisiana; and

Whereas, the Senate should pass similar legislation that will integrate the approach of H.R. 3355 with H.R. 91, which includes the Consumer Hurricane and Earthquake Loss Protection Fund and earlier legislative initiatives that will include the Consumer HELP Fund. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to create a national catastrophe fund; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-356. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nebraska urging Congress to continue its efforts to account for all of the missing people from the Vietnam War; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION NO. 376

Whereas, the official United States military dates for the Vietnam War are August 5, 1964, to January 27, 1973; and

Whereas, over 3,403,000 people served in the United States military in Southeast Asia; and

Whereas, over 2,594,000 people served in the United States military in South Vietnam; and

Whereas, over 58,209 people from the United States died as a result of the war in Southeast Asia and Vietnam from November 1, 1955, the commencement of the military Assistance Advisory Group, to May 15, 1975, when the last United States military member left Southeast Asia; and

Whereas, over 396 Nebraskans died as a result of the Vietnam War; and

Whereas, over 94 Omaha residents died as a result of the Vietnam War, including the following:

Name, Service, Date of Death or Date Declared Dead
Adolf, Larry Eugene, USMC, May 9, 1968
Anderson, Warren Charles, ARMY, August, 15, 1970

Backhaus, Steven Eugene, USMC, December 21, 1969

Bailey, Allen Charles, USMC, March 4, 1966
Bailey, Byrle Bennett, USMC, May 25, 1969
Barney, Terence Edward, USMC, March 17, 1969

Bazar, Paul Thomas, USMC, April 21, 1969
Becker, Michael Paul, USMC, June 7, 1968
Bigley, Richard Ray, USMC, November 22, 1965

Biscamp, Marvin Lynn, ARMY, April 12, 1972

Bosiljevack, Michael Joseph, USAF, Unknown date, 1978

Bragg, Paul Joseph, USMC, July 15, 1969
Buckles, Donald Ray, ARMY, January 28, 1968

Bull, Kenneth R., ARMY, April 17, 1969
Caldwell, Larry Gail, ARMY, May 9, 1968

Cole, Muril Steven, USMC, October 1, 1969
Crayne, Kenneth Eugene, ARMY, December 1, 1970

Cunningham, Richard Ira, ARMY, April 27, 1969

Davis, John Clinton, ARMY, April 28, 1969
Doolittle, Jon Hiliare, ARMY, May 6, 1970

Farrell, Timothy Charles, ARMY, February 11, 1970

Flournoy, James Kaiser, USMC, March 31, 1968

Foley, James Williams, ARMY, January 26, 1968

Fous, James William, ARMY, May 14, 1968
Garcia, Jerry Frank, USMC, April 17, 1968

Gerry, Ronald Lee, ARMY, January 5, 1966
Goc, Paul Stephen Jr., ARMY, June 14, 1969

Griffin, Gerald Charles, NAVY, October 6, 1962

Gronborg, Martin Wayne Jr., ARMY, September 4, 1971

Haakenson, Robert W. Jr., NAVY, October 24, 1972

Hansen, Robert Greg, ARMY, August 7, 1970

Hiley, Thomas Charles, ARMY, January 31, 1968

Hunter, Henry David, ARMY, July 8, 1969
Iler, Kenneth Marvin, USMC, May 29, 1968

Jackson, Eddie Lee Jr., ARMY, November 4, 1968

Johnson, Gary Lee, ARMY, June 18, 1971
Johnson, Lane Carston, ARMY, November 11, 1968

Kavulak, John Henry, USMC, September 21, 1967

Keith, Miguel, USMC, May 8, 1970
Keller, Kenneth Lavern, ARMY, February 11, 1970

Kelley, Harvey Paul, ARMY, November 20, 1969

Kier, Larry Gene, ARMY, September 12, 1978

Klabunde, Arthur John Jr., USMC, January 25, 1968

Klabunde, John Paul, USMC, September 6, 1967

Kocanda, Jerry Joseph III, ARMY, May 21, 1969

Konwinski, Ronald Eugene, USMC, February 6, 1968

Kotrc, James Carl, ARMY, July 29, 1969

Kudlacek, Edwin Allen, ARMY, September 28, 1971

Laird, James Alan, ARMY, October 31, 1970
Lambooy, John Patrick, ARMY, September 19, 1969

Lamere, Anthony John, ARMY, July 1, 1971
Leighton, Earl Laroy, NAVY, January 17, 1969

Luedke, William, ARMY, October 28, 1968
Marchand, Wayne Ellsworth, ARMY, April 8, 1962

Marsh, Alan Richard, ARMY, June 2, 1967
Maxwell, Samuel Chapman, USAF, June 21, 1978

McAllister, Cameron Trent, ARMY, September 7, 1969

Mickna, John Ronald, ARMY, February 23, 1967